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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A batten for connecting to a plurality of lift lines to suspend a load from the batten comprising:

(a) an integral elongate batten body, the batten body having a cross-section defined by a pair of spaced channel forming segments, each channel forming segment including a curvilinear length and a channel flange, a bottom end segment, and a vertical linear segment intermediate each channel forming segment and the bottom end segment, each channel flange projecting in a vertical direction.

2. (Original) The batten of Claim 1, further comprising an internal strut extending between the vertical linear segments.

3. (Original) The batten of Claim 1, further comprising a linear internal strut extending between the vertical linear segments.

4. (Original) The batten of Claim 1, wherein the lower curvilinear end segment defines a lower channel.

5. (Currently amended) A batten for connecting to a plurality of lift lines to suspend a load from the batten, the batten comprising:

(a) a batten body having a cross section at least partially defined by a non-curvilinear peripheral wall, the batten body having a channel extending along a longitudinal dimension of the batten body and a greater resistance to deflection than a 1.5 inch schedule 40 steel pipe; and

(b) a lift line clamp slideably received in the channel and connected to one of the lift lines.

6. (Currently amended) A batten assembly for connecting to a plurality of lift lines to suspend a load from the batten, the batten comprising:

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(a) an elongate batten body having a cross section defined by both linear segments and curvilinear segments, the cross section including a channel at least partially defined by channel forming flanges extending along a length of the body; and

(b) a lift line clamp slideably received in the channel, the lift line clamp including a flange engaging leg for engaging each of the channel forming flanges.

7. (Currently amended) A batten for connecting to a plurality of lift liens to suspend a load from the batten, the batten comprising:

(a) an elongate extruded monolithic batten body, the batten body having a cross section including a pair of spaced channel forming flanges extending along a longitudinal dimension of the batten body, the channel forming flanges having a vertically extending portion.

8. (Original) The batten of Claim 7, wherein the cross section includes both linear segments and curvilinear segments.

9. (New) The batten of Claim 7, wherein the channel forming flanges project vertically downward.

10. (New) The batten of Claim 7, wherein the channel forming flanges project vertically upward.

11. (New) The batten of Claim 7, wherein a portion of the channel forming flanges project vertically upward and a different portion of the channel forming flanges project vertically downward.

12. (New) The batten of Claim 1, wherein each channel flange projects vertically downward.

13. (New) The batten of Claim 1, wherein each channel flange projects vertically upward.

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14. (New) The batten of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the channel flanges projects vertically upward and a different portion of the channel flanges projects vertically downward.